

# CENTRAL REGION

## MISSOURI CAREER GRADES

### SEPTEMBER 2022

#### Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations

Projected to have the most  
annual total job openings

**over 5,000**

#### Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations

Most grade A and B  
annual openings

**over 4,600**

#### Legal Occupations

Grade A and B Jobs  
Concentration

**100%**

Career Grades are a tool to help make comparisons between occupations. Each occupation is assigned a letter grade from A+ to F based on outlook over the next decade. **Grades are based on a combination of projected total job openings, projected percent growth, and average wages.** Occupations with a grade of A or A+ have above average results in at least two of the three variables, while occupations with a grade of B or B+ have above average results in at least one of the three variables.

The Central region is projected to have more than 36,000 annual job openings through 2030. The vast majority (98%) of these openings are in A, B, and C grade occupations. In general, higher graded occupations earn more and have higher growth rates. Grade A occupations earn an average wage that is 36 percent higher than the average wage for all occupations, and are projected to grow nearly three times faster than the average growth rate.

#### Annual Job Openings and Wages by Career Grades

##### Grade A

5,324 Job Openings  
\$60,928 Average Wage

##### Grade B

15,984 Job Openings  
\$46,861 Average Wage

##### Grade C






12,062 Job Openings  
\$37,035 Average Wage

#### Top Outlook Occupation Groups




Major Occupation Group	Total Openings	A & B Openings	A & B Concentration
Food Preparation & Serving Related	5,020	4,693	93%
Transportation & Material Moving	3,093	2,801	91%
Healthcare Support	2,081	1,911	92%
Education, Training, & Library	1,801	1,591	88%
Business & Financial Operations	1,541	1,307	85%
Office & Administrative Support	4,435	1,275	29%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	1,320	1,215	92%
Management	1,253	1,152	92%
Construction & Extraction	1,243	948	76%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1,322	863	65%
Production	1,967	739	38%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	1,117	551	49%
Computer & Mathematical	574	502	87%
Personal Care & Service	980	450	46%
Protective Service	627	326	52%

# Central Top Grade Jobs

**Now** Typically requires short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2020-2030 Growth Rate	Average Wages
B+	Fast Food & Counter Workers 	1,374	15.8%	\$23,717
A	Home Health & Personal Care Aides 	1,079	21.3%	\$26,248
B+	Waiters & Waitresses	957	20.8%	\$23,113
B	Stockers & Order Fillers 	633	9.7%	\$28,493
B	Janitors & Cleaners, Except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners 	591	9.0%	\$28,272
B	Customer Service Representatives 	543	2.9%	\$33,558
B	Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand 	474	10.1%	\$29,328
B+	Passenger Vehicle Drivers, Except Bus Drivers, Transit & Intercity	365	18.1%	\$31,319
B	Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners 	324	12.0%	\$23,713
B	Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers	300	10.6%	\$30,661

**Next** Typically requires non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2020-2030 Growth Rate	Average Wages
A	Cooks, Restaurant	845	50.7%	\$25,476
B	Nursing Assistants 	459	6.2%	\$27,845
B	Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers 	393	5.2%	\$43,494
B	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General 	372	6.6%	\$36,356
A	First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation & Serving Workers	365	22.3%	\$33,978
B	Miscellaneous Assemblers & Fabricators	322	3.9%	\$35,554
B	Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	220	8.2%	\$24,805
B	First-Line Supervisors of Office & Administrative Support Workers	220	3.9%	\$56,669
B	Carpenters	205	5.3%	\$48,863
B+	Loan Interviewers & Clerks	168	19.0%	\$34,556

**Later** Typically requires a bachelor's degree or higher

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2020-2030 Growth Rate	Average Wages
A+	General & Operations Managers 	527	12.5%	\$80,730
B+	Registered Nurses 	407	5.3%	\$62,888
B+	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special & Career/Tech. Edu.	294	8.8%	\$51,358
B	Teaching Assistants, Postsecondary	269	7.1%	\$28,205
B+	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	224	8.4%	\$49,819
B+	Project Mngmt. Specialists & Business Op. Specialists, All Other	220	5.3%	\$70,222
A	Accountants & Auditors	212	8.7%	\$69,942
A+	Software Developers & Quality Assurance Analysts & Testers 	157	26.7%	\$93,427
A+	Loan Officers	150	24.2%	\$74,448
B+	Human Resources Specialists 	137	10.5%	\$57,236

 Flame icon indicates occupations with high numbers of online job ad postings in 2021.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program. Occupational projections developed by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC). Lightcast™. Job opening and growth rate data is based on sum of published employment.

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